

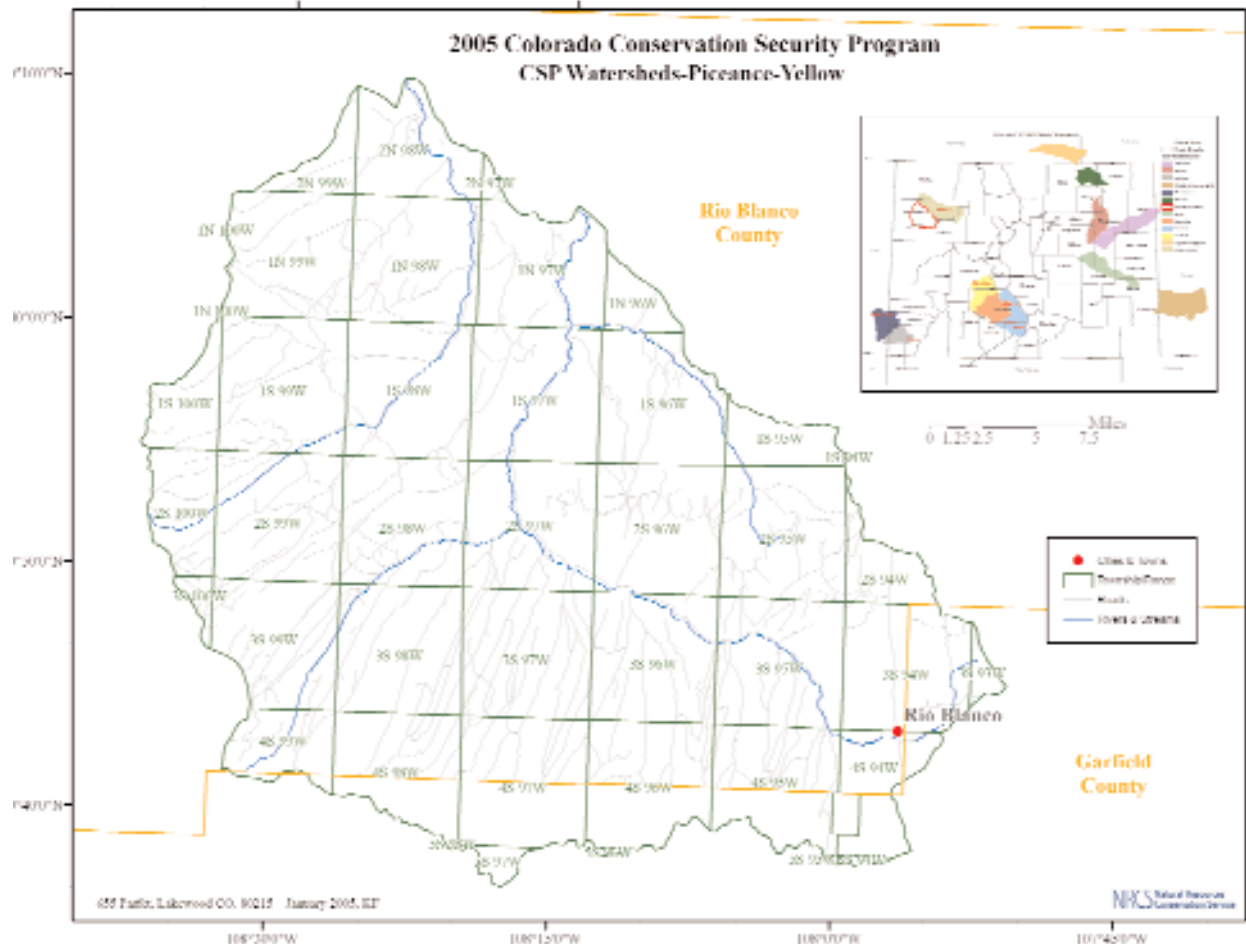


The Conservation Security Program **CSP** *in Colorado*



Rewarding the Best...Motivating the Rest

Piceance-Yellow CSP Watershed



The Conservation Security Program (CSP) is being offered in 13 watersheds with in Colorado in 2005. 202 Watersheds have been identified across the nation. The Piceance-Yellow Watershed is located in Northwestern Colorado in portions of Garfield and Rio Blanco counties. The watershed includes approximately 78 farms on 108,888 acres.

When the CSP Final Rule is published, the sign-up period and any eligibility requirements will be announced. NRCS expects the sign-up period for CSP to be during the spring season. The program will be offered each year on a rotational basis in different watersheds, nationally, as funding allows.

Basic Eligibility Requirements...

SEE REVERSE

How CSP Works

- 1 The CSP sign-up will be offered in selected priority watersheds across the Nation.
- 2 Producers complete a self-assessment to determine eligibility.
- 3 Eligible producers within these watersheds submit an application.
- 4 Based on the application, description of conservation activities, and a follow-up interview, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will determine which program tier and enrollment category are available for the applicant.

NRCS will provide the necessary materials for producers to complete the benchmark inventory.

General Program Eligibility

Both the producer and the producer's operation must first meet these basic eligibility criteria:

- ◆ The land must be privately owned or tribal land with the majority of the land located within a selected priority watershed.
- ◆ The applicant must be in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, have an active interest in the agricultural operation, and show control of the land for the life of the contract.
- ◆ The applicant must share in the risk of producing any crop or livestock and be entitled to a share in the crop or livestock marketed from the operation.

All applicants must meet the following minimum tier eligibility and contract requirements, plus any additional requirements in the sign-up announcement.

- ◆ **For Tier I**, the producer must have addressed water quality and soil quality to meet the minimum treatment requirements on part of the agricultural operation prior to acceptance into CSP.
- ◆ **For Tier II**, the producer must have addressed water quality and soil quality


to meet the minimum treatment requirements on the entire agricultural operation prior to acceptance and agree to address **Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Cover/Shelter** by the end of the contract period.

- ◆ **For Tier III**, the producer must have addressed all resource concerns to a resource management system level that meets the Field Office Technical Guide standards on the entire agricultural operation before acceptance into the program and agree to additional enhancement activities outlined in the sign-up announcement.

Soil quality practices might include crop rotation, cover crops, conservation tillage, prescribed grazing, and adequate wind barriers.

Water quality practices might include filter strips, grassed waterways, managed access to streams, nutrient and pest management, prescribed grazing, and irrigation water management.

Basic Eligibility within Piceance-Yellow CSP Watershed

1. If the majority of your ag operation is within the Piceance-Yellow CSP watershed boundaries, you may be eligible for 2005 CSP funding.
2. Can you answer yes to the listed questions? 
3. Do you have the required documentation of your land stewardship (*see recommendations on website*)?
4. If you have answered yes to the above questions and you have land within the Piceance-Yellow CSP watershed, then, have you completed the **CSP workbook** located at www.co.nrcs.usda.gov?

So you have land within the Piceance-Yellow CSP Watershed...

Can you Answer Yes to These Questions?

1. Are you in compliance with Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions of the Farm Bill?
2. Do you have cropland, rangeland, hayland, pastureland, vineyards and/or orchards that you wish to enroll in Conservation Security Program (CSP)?
3. Do you own or have control of the land you intend to enroll in CSP for the length of the proposed 5 to 10 year contract period?
4. Do you share in the risk of producing the crop or livestock on this farm?
5. Do you manage your nutrient usage and have records showing soil tests at least once in the past five years for the acreage where fertilizers or livestock waste have been applied and you wish to enroll in CSP?
6. Are crop and pasture fields free of active gullies?
7. Do you have at least two years of records of your pest management methods and applications for the acres you wish to enroll?
8. Do you have two years of records for your grazing management system, including:
 - ◆ number and class of livestock, including size or weight?
 - ◆ number and sizes of pastures?
 - ◆ grazing period, days in pasture?
 - ◆ location of watering facilities?
 - ◆ location of salt and mineral blocks?
9. Do you manage livestock access to water courses?

*If you answered yes to the above questions, and you have land within the **Piceance-Yellow CSP Watershed** then you're ready to move ahead. Please visit www.co.nrcs.usda.gov*